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# CIA fights academic restraints

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Last September, while testifying before a Senate subcommittee in Washington, CIA director Stansfield Turner said his agency no longer sought to sponsor secret research at the nation's colleges and universities.

Today, Turner and his aides are working quietly to soften the effect of a set of Harvard University guidelines designed specifically to limit such work.

The guidelines, which were drawn up earlier this year in response to CIA disclosures that it secretly sponsored millions of dollars worth of research at American campuses, are expected to serve as a model for universities throughout the country.

Harvard officials said recently that, shortly after the guidelines were made public in May, Turner complained that they were too stringent and could violate the individual privacy of university professors who serve as consultants to the agency.

Harvard's general counsel, Daniel Steiner, said yesterday that discussions between the CIA and the university are "ongoing," adding that "there are significant differences between us that we hope we'll be able to resolve."

The dispute is the latest in a series of incidents that have strained the once cordial relationship between the nation's academic community and the CIA.

Since World War II, the CIA and other intelligence agencies have sponsors millions of dollars worth of research at American campuses — much of it classified work — after discovering that the expertise found there was useful.

In the nearly '50s, even as Sen. Joe McCarthy fell into disfavor, the Cold War was taking shape and, with it, an urgency to develop new technology and new ideas to combat the threat of communism.

But it wasn't until early this year that university administrators learned that, in addition to hundreds of projects they had approved, there were hundreds of others that never received their approval.

In September, California's Stanford University—finally informed of its role by the CIA—sent a 900-word message across the country detailing its involvement in $400,000 worth of such work during the 1950s and early '60s.

The news was neither surprising nor alarming, much of it having been previously reported, but a few hours later Stanford sent another message, this one just 20 words long:

"Stanford outlawed secret research in 1969, and there is no evidence that current faculty is involved in any CIA research."

The mood had changed. College administrators everywhere wanted it understood that they were the unwilling victims in this CIA scheme. And they wanted to prove that it wouldn't, couldn't happen again.

Stanford wasn't alone. Eighty-six universities and hospitals across the country had been used unwittingly by the intelligence agency. The amounts spent in New England were small, among them was the most controversial—the use of LSD on unsuspecting volunteers at the Massachusetts Mental Health center.

Details of other local projects still haven't been disclosed, but Harvard, MIT and other local institutions have, as Stanford, already taken steps to ban all classified research—some because of antiwar protests in the 1960s and others because of the most recent disclosures about the CIA.

But nearly everyone admits that despite the efforts at regulating secret research, the very nature of such research makes it difficult to uncover and abolish.

"And since not every college or university has taken steps to stop classified research, agencies like the CIA can simply move elsewhere with their work," explained Robert Beyers, a spokesman for Stanford University.

Beyers said Stanford's decision to ban classified research as early as 1969, like MIT's, was a direct result of campus antiwar protests rather than any real knowledge of unethical relation-

And Harvard's decision earlier this year to develop what is now considered

activities on campus came only after the extent of the CIA involvement was made public.

But Harvard general counsel Steiner explained in a recent interview that the university hasn't accepted classified research "for years and years, primarily because the basic rationale is that the university is in the business of developing knowledge and information for the public.

"Classified research provides highly limited access, which is contrary to that rationale," Steiner said.

Coupled with those constraints is the CIA's recent assurance to Stanford officials that "it is contrary to agency policy (now) to obtain unwitting services of any American staff or faculty member of US institutions."

But the statement noticeably excludes contracts with foreign nationals working at US universities and fails to resolve the problem of nonclassified research that the CIA intends to use for purposes other than those stated publicly.

Anthony Wiener, a former guest researcher at MIT who now teaches at the New York Institute of Technology, had one such experience with the CIA while at MIT in the late 1950s.

In 1958, Wiener solicited a $12,000 grant from the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology — only recently identified as a conduit for CIA funds — to continue a study of the sociological aspects of scientific research in the Soviet Union.

It wasn't until two months ago that Wiener found that the money actually came from the CIA and that the agency actually hoped to use his reports to determine how to locate Soviet scientists who might be convinced to defect.

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